

208 Plan – Public Meeting (2/24/09)

Alligator Proposed Treatment Plant

Meeting notes from public comments



The purpose of this list was to address the issues raised at the public meeting (responses at meeting not included).

- Concern with Town not approving of sewer but want to run sewer.
- Distance of pumping sewer
- You need sewer (service) to grow
- Support sewer system (Alligator)
- Have water, need sewer
- McBee needs a sewer system, needs growth
- What will wastewater do to the environment, our children, their children?
- Who elected the board of Alligator?
- Cost is a problem
- Who's paying for the system including operating cost? Once the grant money is gone?
- How much will the rate increase per customer?
- Why didn't Alligator request input prior to the proposal for the sewer system?
- Why is there a need for an amendment when Hartsville is already accepting our sewer?
- We're not opposed to the sewer system, if Hartsville can accept then that should be ok.
- Cost burden should not be on our children.
- What happens to the sludge, with the final product?
- We need to be healthy.
- What happens to the pathogens (bacteria)?
- Will the treated wastewater go into a river or onto the land?
- What is EPA's involvement (in land application)?
- Will DHEC mandate/monitor the industrial waste/chemicals?
- Will there be groundwater wells? Who will monitor them?
- Hartsville has capacity, McBee is being ignored by Hartsville, Cheraw is a distance away but don't see the need.
- From Bethune, I understand the need to protect the environment but without industry, why protect?
- If no jobs, no environment – What has our town done?
- How does a rapid infiltration work versus subsurface irrigation (or drip irrigation)?
- Monitor for pharmaceuticals/personal care items (monitoring wells/effluent)?
- Centralized or decentralized treatment plant?
- Is a sewer better than a septic tank? per DHEC
- Will DHEC seriously look at the ability of Hartsville or Cheraw can handle the sewer?

- Why would the State want to spend the money for a new system when Hartsville or Cheraw can handle the sewer?
- Where will the system be? Is there a zoning issue, building code issue?
- Will it be permitted as a biological or physical/chemical plant? If biological will any industrial be allowed?
- What will be the lifespan of the system (rapid infiltration system)?
- What's on the table about the Lynches River? Do not want what happened to the Lynches River when the chemical company was here.
- I think Alligator is more suitable to take care of the sewer.
- What comes out of the plant goes into the ground, same thing with the septic tank. It seems the sewer system will be a more responsible way to handle the waste.
- Hartsville growth may limit available capacity for McBee area.
- In order for us to grow, we have to have sewer service. We need to be able to control it.
- Sewer system will bring in more business/jobs.
- What is this going to cost the taxpayer?
- It's right next door to my house.
- If the sewer system brings in jobs, perhaps help our economy and prevent crimes that may be related to the economy now.
- Will water runoff and goes into Alligator Creek what happens? Something to consider.
- How many people will be required to tap into system?
- Who does DHEC rely on to provide the info to determine the cost analysis/alternatives?
- Are any of the systems similar to this one (other land application systems) sitting over an aquifer?
- We need sewer like we needed the water.
- We do need to protect the aquifer here, this is a unique area.
- Why would we put a sewer system here before the USGS study is complete? At least 2 years.
- Are we going to become a mega sewer location (taking sewage from many places)?
- Are underground streams regulated by the State?
- We don't know what's being proposed (at the system)?
- Why doesn't DHEC make irrigators (farmers) treat irrigation water before they put it on the land?
- It's better for the aquifer if the sewage is treated before it goes into the ground.
- Hartsville/Cheraw are concerned about its growth/community not ours.
- Is the water (proposed project effluent) put into the rapid infiltration basins potable at that time?
- Please address the odor associated with a wastewater treatment plant.

Summary Sheet: Meeting on 208 Plan Alligator Rural – Wastewater Treatment Proposal



FEBRUARY 2009 (flow revised 2/24/09)

Q) What is the 208 Plan?

A) The 208 Plan is a wastewater management plan that guides where facilities should be built. DHEC's permits must not conflict with these plans.

Q) Does the Alligator proposal fit with the current 208 Plan?

A) Currently, the 208 Plan approves wastewater from the McBee area to be treated at the Hartsville treatment plant. Alligator proposes an amendment to the plan.

Q) What does Alligator want to do?

A) Alligator has projected a need for up to ~~4-0~~ 0.8 million gallons per day (MGD) of capacity for the residential, commercial and industrial needs of the McBee area (this current proposal does not involve flow from other cities). Alligator believes that the best plan to serve this ~~4-0~~ 0.8 MGD need is to build its own treatment plant. In this plan, treated wastewater would be applied to the land near the treatment plant. The original plan (spray irrigation over 150 acres) has been modified to use rapid infiltration of treated wastewater applied over less than 10 acres.

Q) Are there other options?

A) Alternatives to the Alligator proposal include continuing to rely on the City of Hartsville's plant and building a treatment plant with a discharge to the Lynches River.

Q) Are there restrictions with continuing to use the Hartsville's treatment plant?

A) First, the existing contract would not satisfy the ~~4-0~~ 0.8 MGD need. Second, Alligator believes it could be in better providing future sewer service if it didn't need to rely on another entity. Historically, Alligator reports that Hartsville has denied service for certain residential and commercial customers.

Q) Does Alligator intend to completely stop sending flow to Hartsville?

A) Alligator's original plan (March 2008) indicated that all current flows would be treated at the proposed new plant. Alligator has made clear in a letter (January 2009) that it would continue to send certain industrial flows to Hartsville – flows that would be better suited for the City's plant (river discharge) and not suited to a land application proposal.

Q) What public input will DHEC consider in making a decision about modification of the Plan?

A) DHEC is looking for input to evaluate the Alligator proposal for the McBee area. For example: "Is the projected need of ~~4-0~~ 0.8 MGD reasonable?"; "Is this the cost-effective plan for the area?"; "Can this plan be implemented?"; "Are there adverse environmental impacts from this plan?"; and "Is there adequate justification to change the current plan?"

Questions/Comments on the Alligator Proposal? Come to the February 24th meeting at McBee High School (7pm) or contact: Jeff deBessonet at DHEC (debessip@dhec.sc.gov), 803-898-4157.